

In the Claims

Please replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application with the following list of claims:

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method for treating or preventing allergic asthma or allergy in a hypo-responsive subject, comprising:

administering to a hypo-responsive subject having allergic asthma or allergy or at risk of developing allergic asthma or allergy an immunostimulatory nucleic acid in an effective amount for treating or preventing allergic asthma or allergy, wherein the hypo-responsive subject is not a neonate.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the hypo-responsive subject is hypo-responsive to an asthma/allergy medicament.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the hypo-responsive subject is selected from the group consisting of a subject who is refractory to an asthma/allergy medicament, a subject who is a non-responder to an asthma/allergy medicament, and an elderly subject.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid has a modified backbone.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the modified backbone is a phosphate modified backbone.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the phosphate modified backbone is a phosphorothioate modified backbone.

18. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid is a CpG nucleic acid.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[18]] 12, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid is a T-rich nucleic acid.

20-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[18]] 12, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid is a poly-G nucleic acid.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising administering to the hypo-responsive subject an asthma/allergy medicament.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the asthma/allergy medicament is administered in a sub-therapeutic amount.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the asthma/allergy medicament is an asthma medicament.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the asthma/allergy medicament is an allergy medicament.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the asthma/allergy medicament is selected from the group consisting of a steroid and an immunomodulator.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the steroid is selected from the group consisting of beclomethasone, fluticasone, tramcinolone, budesonide and budesonide.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the immunomodulator is selected from the group consisting of an anti-inflammatory agent, a leukotriene antagonist, an IL-4 mutein, a soluble IL-4 receptor, an immunosuppressant, an anti-IL-4 antibody, an IL-4

antagonist, an anti-IL-5 antibody, a soluble IL-13 receptor-Fc fusion protein, an anti-IL-9 antibody, a CCR3 antagonist, a CCR5 antagonist, a VLA-4 inhibitor and a downregulator of IgE.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the downregulator of IgE is an anti-Ig antibody or a fragment thereof.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the immunosuppressant is a tolerizing peptide vaccine.

47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38, wherein the asthma/allergy medicament is a medicament selected from the group consisting of a PDE-4 inhibitor, a bronchodilator/beta-2 agonist, a K⁺ channel opener, a VLA-4 antagonist, a neurokinin antagonist, a TXA₂ thromboxane A₂ synthesis inhibitor, xanthanine, an arachidonic acid antagonist, a 5 lipoxygenase inhibitor, a thromboxin thromboxane A₂ receptor antagonist, a thromboxane A₂ antagonist, an inhibitor of 5-lipox activation protein and a protease inhibitor.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the bronchodilator/beta-2 agonist is selected from the group consisting of salmeterol, salbutamol, terbutaline, D2522/formoterol, fenoterol and orciprenaline.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the asthma/allergy medicament is a medicament selected from the group consisting of an anti-histamine and a prostaglandin inducer.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the anti-histamine is selected from the group consisting of loratadine, cetirizine, buclizine, a ceterizine analogue, fexofenadine, terfenadine, desloratadine, norastemizole, epinastine, ebastine, ebastine, astemizole, levocabastine, azelastine, tranilast, terfenadine, mizolastine, betastastine, CS 560 and HSR 609.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the prostaglandin inducer is S-5751.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid is administered concurrently with the asthma/allergy medicament.